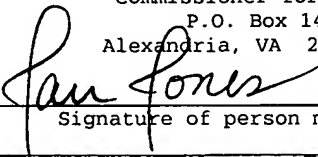


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Express Mail Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10	
EXPRESS MAIL® MAILING LABEL NUMBER:	EV 316158645 US
Date:	April 12, 2004
I, Jan Jones, hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper and fees referred to as being attached or enclosed or actually enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above, with sufficient postage, and is addressed as follows:	
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Signature of person mailing paper	

In re Application of: Paul A. Vaughan

Serial No.: Not Assigned

Prior Serial No.: 10/109,172

Filing Date: April 12, 2004

Prior Filing Date: March 28, 2002

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

Prior Group Art Unit: 3732

Examiner: Not Assigned

Prior Examiner: Ralph A. Lewis

For: **Vertebral Stabilization Assembly and Method**

Mail Stop: Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), Applicant submits the art listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, along with a copy of

the referenced art, and notes that no fees are believed to be due in connection with this filing. Applicant submits this Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), as Applicant is filing this Information Disclosure Statement before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits.

Applicant respectfully requests, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, that the art listed on the attached PTO-1449 form be considered and cited in the examination of the above-identified application. A copy of this art is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner. Furthermore, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97(g) and (h), no representation is made that this art is material to patentability of the present application or that a search has been made.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner, and shall not be construed as a representation that Applicant or Applicant's attorneys have personal knowledge of the contents of the listed art or any events surrounding the listed art.

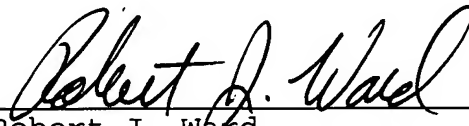
The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449, as indicated. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner then return to the undersigned a copy of the initialed

and completed Form PTO-1449 that indicates the enclosed
referenced art has been considered in its entirety.

No fees are believed to be required in connection with the
filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. To the extent
that any further fees, whatsoever, are required, including
petition fees, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge
payment of any additional fees, including any under 37 C.F.R.
§ 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 23-3189,
Hunton & Williams (Dallas) and reference Attorney Docket No.
85689.19.

**Please direct all correspondence to the practitioner listed
below at Customer No. 24347.**

Respectfully submitted,



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April 12, 2004

FORM PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 85689.19	SERIAL NO. <i>Not Assigned</i>
LIST OF ART CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT Paul A. Vaughan	
		FILING DATE April 12, 2004	GROUP Not Yet Assigned

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	NAME OF INVENTOR	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (if appropriate)
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	Re. 37,161	May 1, 2001	Gary K. Michelson et al.	606	61	Jan. 20, 2000
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EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY FILED IN OR PCT	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO

OTHER ART

(Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of article, title of item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published)

EXAMINER INITIAL	
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	<i>Lumbar Disk Surgery – Treating Low Back Pain and Sciatica</i> , (pamphlet), 2000, 8 pgs., The StayWell Company, 1100 Grundy Ln. San Bruno, CA 94066-3033.
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	CHARLES V. BURTON, M.D., <i>The Present Role of Titanium Cage Fusions In Spine Care</i> , (article found at the Internet website www.spineuniverse.com/surgery/procedures/cage2fusion.html), dated 03/28/2001, 3 pgs.
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	<i>University™ Plate – Titanium Anterior System – Ordering Information for implants and instruments</i> , (pamphlet), 1996, 6 pgs., AcroMed, Inc., 3303 Carnegie Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115.
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	<i>U.S. copending Continuation-in-Part patent application filed 4/2/04 (Ser. No. - not yet assigned), entitled Vertebral Stabilization Assembly and Method, inventor: Paul A. Vaughan, Attorney Docket No. 85689.17</i>	
	<i>U.S. provisional patent application filed October 3, 2001; (Ser. No. 60/327,118) entitled Vertebral Stabilization Assembly and Method, Attorney Docket No. 85689.4.</i>	
	<i>U.S. provisional patent application filed November 2, 2001 (Ser. No. 60/350,259) entitled Vertebral Stabilization Assembly and Method Having a Modified Pedicle Screw; Attorney Docket No. 85689.6.</i>	
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	<i>U.S. provisional patent application filed January 31, 2002 (Ser. No. 60/353,691) entitled Vertebral Stabilization Assembly and Method Having Dual Pedicle Screws; Attorney Docket No. 85689.8.</i>	
EXAMINER SIGNATURE:		DATE CONSIDERED:
<p>*EXAMINER: Please initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Please include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>		